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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois are pleased to honor Patrick Durkin for his many accomplishments throughout his life, a life dedicated to the service of others; and

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WHEREAS, Patrick James Durkin was born on November 14, 1939; he has been married to Kathleen Durkin for over 40 years and is the father of 8 children; he holds a Master of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northeastern Illinois University; he also holds an Associate of Arts degree in liberal arts from Wilson Junior College and a second Associate of Arts in fire science from Daley Junior College; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Durkin valiantly served his country in the U.S. Army as a squad leader and heavy equipment driver; he received an honorable discharge; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Durkin has received countless honors and awards for his dedicated work as a fireman in the Chicago area and in security at Northeastern Illinois University; he received the City of Chicago Fire Department Special Honorable Award in 1971 for rescuing a child from a burning building; in 1972, he received the Underwriters Award for Bravery, the Chicago Jaycees Award for Personal Heroism, the Ward La France Fire Industry Award of Honor for Heroism, and a Certificate of Appreciation for Personal Courage for rescuing a baby from a burning building; he was the recipient of Mayor Daley's Certificate of Merit for Courageous Action Beyond the Normal Call of Duty in 1972; he received the Gaelic Fire Brigade Award for Dedication to the Chicago Fire Department in 1979, and in 1980, he was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the American Society for Industrial Security; he was the recipient of a Northeastern Illinois University Official Department Commendation for Exceptional Police Work in 1981, when he

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1 arrested 3 convicts during an act of burglary; he also received  
2 a recognition award from Northeastern Illinois University in  
3 1982 for calming an enraged psychotic man during a police call,  
4 and he also received a Northeastern Illinois University Letter  
5 of Accommodation in 1986 for arresting an escaped convict on a  
6 battery and hate crime; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Durkin chose to change his career and focus  
8 his efforts on the education of children as a principal and  
9 teacher; in his role as teacher and principal, he realized that  
10 each child has promise and dedicated himself to ensuring that  
11 the students under his care received the best possible  
12 education; Mr. Durkin's leadership and skills as an educator  
13 are present in his stewardship of Goudy School in the Uptown  
14 community in Chicago; once called "the worst school in the  
15 worst school district in the nation", Mr. Durkin proved that  
16 motivated students, inspired parents, dedicated teachers, and  
17 community support can change the direction of a school and  
18 provide a quality education for its students; Mr. Durkin's  
19 attention to diversity, public safety, teacher development,  
20 and parent involvement and quality student programs have made  
21 Goudy School a model public school; for his accomplishments as  
22 principal of Goudy, in 1997, he was named Principal of the  
23 Year; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Durkin has also received countless honors and  
25 awards for his work in education and his community service; he  
26 received the Henderson School Teacher Recognition Award in  
27 1984, a Certificate of Award from Our Lady of Peace School for  
28 Community Service in 1988-1989 and 1991-1992 for coaching  
29 various teams and being involved with Cub Scouts, the Edgewater  
30 Community Council-Education Award "Salute Edgewater" in 1994,  
31 and the First Annual Quality of Life Award for Education in the  
32 48th Ward in 1992; he was a finalist for the Whitman Award in  
33 1991, and he received a Certificate of Exemplary Performance  
34 for the 1995-1996 school year from the Chicago Public Schools

1 and the Bridging the GAP Illinois Goal Assessment Program Award  
2 in 1995; in 1994, he was a recipient of the Department of  
3 Safety and Security's School Safety Award, and in 1993, he  
4 received an Academic Achievement Award from the Chicago Public  
5 Schools; he was the recipient of the First Annual Community  
6 School Partnership Award in 1991 given by the Organization of  
7 the Northeast, and on Christmas Day of 2001, he was WGN's  
8 Unsung Hero; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Durkin is the proud father of Maripat Donahue  
10 (Bill Donahue), Kathleen Wiersema (Richard Wiersema), Raleen  
11 Quick (Mark Quick), Eileen Stobart (Reese Stobart), Maureen  
12 Durkin-Moran (Terrance Moran), Patrick Durkin (Emily Durkin),  
13 Michael Durkin, and John Durkin; he is the proud grandfather of  
14 Richard Wiersema, Rodney Wiersema, Reid Wiersema, Kathleen  
15 Wiersema, Reghan Quick, Karrighan Quick, Delaney Quick, and  
16 Erin Durkin; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
19 honor Patrick Durkin for his many accomplishments as a father,  
20 husband, principal, teacher, fireman, and friend to many  
21 throughout his life; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
23 presented to Patrick Durkin as an expression of our respect and  
24 esteem.